

Responding to Reports of Sexual Assault

The Department is committed to providing you full and complete care, treatment and counseling. Your installation will ensure that you will receive all necessary services even if it must obtain them from civilian providers.

The position of Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) has been established to coordinate sexual assault victim care. Upon receipt of a report of sexual assault, the SARC will assign a Victim Advocate (VA) to help you obtain necessary services and to provide crisis intervention, referral and ongoing nonclinical support. Support will include providing information on available options and resources so you can make informed decisions about your case.

- Your VA will accompany you, if desired, to interviews and appointments.
- Your VA will continue to assist you until you no longer feel a need for support.

Role of the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) is considered the center of gravity when it comes to ensuring that victims of sexual assault receive appropriate and responsive care. They serve as the single point of contact to coordinate sexual assault victim care. The term “Sexual Assault Response Coordinator” is a term utilized throughout DoD and the Services to facilitate communication and transparency regarding sexual assault response capability.

What does the SARC do for the victim?

- Ensures there is 24/7 response capability
- Ensures appropriate care is coordinated and provided to victims
- Tracks the services provided from initial report through final disposition
- Advocates to ensure the views of the victim are considered in the decision-making process
- Reports directly to a senior installation or geographic commander
- Provides commander with broader understanding of command climate in regards to sexual assault
- Manages victim advocates during the performance of advocacy duties
- Oversight of all sexual assault cases
- Assigns a Victim Advocate to a case
- Conducts sexual assault case management
- Chairs monthly case management meeting
- Tracks and reports sexual assault numbers
- Tracks the dispositions of all military sexual assault cases monthly, quarterly, and annual reports
- Oversees training and education for:
 - Victim Advocates
 - Community

- Responders

Role of the Victim Advocate (VA)

Victim Advocates (VAs) provide direct assistance to victims. They listen to victims' needs and then connect them with appropriate resources, including medical care, mental health care, legal advice and spiritual support. VAs work with victims to help them make informed choices and then support them every step of the way.

What does the VA do for the victim?

- Reports directly to the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) for Victim Advocate duties
- Available to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Provides ongoing nonclinical support
- Facilitates care for the victim
- Provides information on options and resources
- Assists victim with accessing resources
- Accompanies victim to appointments, if desired
- Provides monthly case status updates to the victim